



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/587,787	07/28/2006	Elizabeth Pimm	39700-01	1304
7590 10/07/2008 John B Hardaway III Nexsen Pruet Adams Kleemeier P O Box 10107 Greenville, SC 29603				
EXAMINER STEPHENS, JACQUELINE F				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3761				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
10/07/2008		PAPER		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

# Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/587,787

**Applicant(s)**

PIMM, ELIZABETH

**Examiner**

Jacqueline F. Stephens

**Art Unit**

3761

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 and 25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 and 25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF/ICE)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7/28/06, 7/2/07
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 15, 16, and 21-23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Regarding claims 15, 16, 21 and 23, the phrase "for example" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitation(s) following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-14, 17, 18, 20-23, and 25, as best understood by the examiner, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Webb USPN 5304158.
5. As to claims 1, 7, 12, and 23, Webb teaches a single-use kit comprising a foldable and/or rollable mat 40 and a first mat extension at fold line 50 containing a nappy-changing material 62. The kit is capable of being opened and closed by unfolding and/or unrolling the mat and first mat extension. The opened kit provides a

nappy-changing surface 42 and is capable of being opened single-handedly (col. 3, lines 4-8). The kit when closed is suitable for enclosing a soiled nappy and/or used nappy changing material (col. 3, lines 27-39).

As to claims 2 and 3, the kit comprises an unused nappy 12 and/or other nappy-changing material 64, 66 (col. 3, lines 27-39).

As to claim 8, the first mat extension extends from a side of the mat at fold line 50 (Figure 2).

As to claim 9, the kit comprises a second mat extension opposite the first mat extension at fold line 52 (Figure 2).

As to claims 10 and 11, the kit when open is in the form of a cruciform or t-shaped (Figure 2 where mat is attached to diaper).

As to claims 13 and 25, the nappy-changing material includes lotions, powders, oil, ointments, or wipes as claimed (col. 3, lines 1-4).

As to claims 17, 18 and 20, the nappy-changing surface 42 formed by pad 40 is formed of water-proof plastic material (col. 2, lines 46-49).

As to claims 21 and 22, the kit is capable of being used in a vending machine, relative to the size of the vending machine slots.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 15 and 16, as best understood by the examiner, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Webb USPN 5304158 in view Dean USPN 4604096. Webb discloses the present invention substantially as claimed. However, Webb does not disclose the diaper structure comprises a handle. Dean discloses a disposable diaper structure having a handle for the benefit of restricting the mouth of the envelop in the closed configuration (Dean col. 2, lines 247-28). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify Webb with a biodegradable material to achieve the benefits taught in Dean.
8. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Webb USPN 5304158 in view of Khan USPN 4968312. Webb discloses the present invention substantially as claimed. However, Webb does not disclose the diaper structure is biodegradable. Khan discloses a biodegradable diaper structure for the benefit of breaking down the diaper and waste materials when the diaper is disposed (Khan col. 8,

lines 19-22). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify Webb with a biodegradable material to achieve the benefits taught in Khan.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jacqueline F. Stephens whose telephone number is (571) 272-4937. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tanya Zalukaeva can be reached on (571) 272-1115. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jacqueline F Stephens/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3761

Application/Control Number: 10/587,787  
Art Unit: 3761

Page 6